(c) In order to check Pak ISI activities in the country, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well-coordinated intelligence based operations and modernization and upgradation of State police and central security forces. Besides, a number of Joint Working Groups have been set up with various countries including Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar for information sharing and combating trans-border crime and terrorism. The Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal have assured that they would not allow their territories to be used for activities inimical to India's interests.

Increasing awareness of extremist activities through street theatres

3447. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rastriya Rifles has hit upon street theatres to make people aware of the false propaganda by extremists outfits and teach safeguards against grenade & IED explosion, and details of the efforts in the Kashmir Valley;

(b) whether it has been successful in increasing peoples awareness; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take street theatres to other disturbed areas in the North-East and Andhra Pradesh to increase awareness about the naxalites and other extremist groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) Grenades of IEDs have often been employed by terrorists in their attacks, resulting in more of civilian casualties than of security forces. With this experience, the Army have organized street plays in the Kashmir Valley as part of a month-long campaign on isolating terrorists from the populace as also to educate the people on ways to minimize casualties from grenade/IED blasts. The campaign, aimed at exposing the *modus operandi* of terrorists and their detrimental effect on the livelihood of the common population of Kashmir. The level of willing and enthusiastic participation by the locals in the plays indicted a beneficial and positive response.

(c) The Ministry has taken various steps to counter the propaganda being made by the extremist groups in the North-East. The Ministry has at present, proposal for creation of awareness among the people in these areas through street theatres.